

A big problem in the spiritual life is the many ulterior motives we have running alongside our pure bhakti. Everyone has at their core intrinsic love for Krsna, pure love! This love is covered by so many hard, knotted and cankerous material desires; and do not think that these desires are always separate from being a devotee. Intrinsic seva bhava / Extrinsic purusa bhava!

This is Aparadha and will wither ones bhakti-lata (devotional creeper) like a virulent pathogen. Even if we are ostensibly following the regulative principles and chanting our prescribed number of rounds (daily) there is still every chance impropriety can seep into our bhajan and Sri Nam Prabhu will not be pleased to reveal Himself to us. Nisiddhacara forbidden actions, such as meat eating, illicit sex, intoxication and gambling must certainly be abstained from, but what about more subtle forms of Aparadha: Kutinati - faultfinding, duplicity and diplomacy, Jiva-Himsa - violence to others and Envy of others, Labha - greed for material gain, Puja - desire for worship, popularity, admiration and honor from others, Pratistha - desire for name, fame and high position.

These enemies can be hard to spot sometimes and we then find ourselves wondering why a particular effect has risen, e.g. lack of taste, social problems, philosophical faithlessness. What was the cause; look within! A sadhaka must constantly be looking inwards to arrest the development of any or all of these shortcomings. They are not the true self!